

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES
SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION**



**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006
KIVA CONFERENCE ROOM – CITY HALL
3939 N. DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251**

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Gilliland
Vice-Chairman Brian Davis
Commissioner William Howard
Commissioner Kelly McCall
Commissioner Matthew Taunton

ABSENT: Commissioner J. David Hill

STAFF PRESENT: Rose Arballo, Transportation Commission Coordinator
Teresa Huish, Principal Transportation Planner
Dave Meinhart, Transportation Planning and Transit Director
Mary O'Connor, Transportation General Manager
Paul Porell, Traffic Engineering Director

CALL TO ORDER

The Study Session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Gilliland at 5:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A formal roll call confirmed the members present as stated above.

1. QUESTIONS REGARDING TONIGHT'S REGULAR MEETING AGENDA / COMMENTS

• **Traffic Calming Policies and Procedures**

Ms. O'Connor noted that discussion will continue regarding the proposed elements of the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Manual and Commissioner Howard's resolution regarding traffic calming policies and procedures. She stressed that this is a working draft. In the future, the Commission may wish to schedule a longer Work Study Session. Ms. O'Connor noted that residents of Pima Acres might wish to address the Commission regarding this agenda item.

- **Proposition 400 Status**

Ms. O'Connor remarked that staff are anxious to give an overview on the status of Proposition 400 funding and projects.

- **CIP Budget**

Ms. O'Connor noted that this is a follow-up to the discussion that took place at the last meeting. Commissioner Howard and Mr. Meinhart will share information from their meeting. Commissioner Howard thanked Mr. Meinhart for being patient with his questions. Mr. Meinhart added that at tonight's Regular meeting, he would review the capital improvement projects currently under way. Ms. O'Connor anticipated that the Commissioners may discuss how new information is presented to them. Commissioner Howard explained that at the last meeting he abstained from voting because he did not understand the spreadsheet. Commissioner Howard expressed he is prepared to vote if the Commission wants a more complete vote.

- **Transportation Master Plan**

Noting that the March 18th workshop has been canceled, Ms. O'Connor announced that the next workshop regarding the Transportation Master Plan would take place on March 30th.

Current Transportation Project Updates

Ms. O'Connor advised the Commission that she would provide photo enforcement statistics. Information will be provided about recent and future meetings, including an update about the Dial-A-Ride contract. She assured the Commissioners there would be no break in service caused by changing contracts. Staff is considering sending a letter to RPTA suggesting that they not delay in working to improve Dial-A-Ride by working with the East Valley Dial-A-Ride Users Group.

Commissioner McCall asked Ms. O'Connor if there were certain areas where the performance of the recently terminated contractor was improving or more areas where performance was slipping. Ms. O'Connor replied this had been primarily in bus maintenance. The Users Group were concerned with education and performance issues.

Commissioner McCall inquired if anyone was injured in the fire on the Dial-A-Ride bus. Ms. O'Connor replied that she is not aware of any injuries.

Ms. O'Connor reported that a meeting of the community working group for the west Chaparral traffic calming project was held on March 15th. She announced that the first community bike ride is planned for April 23rd, as part of Bicycle Week. Posters and flyers have been produced.

In response to a query from Chairman Gilliland, staff noted there is progress on 96th Street.

Ms. O' Connor noted that Commissioner Bruz has turned in his resignation. The deadline for interested candidates to apply to the Commission is April 14th.

Chairman Gilliland inquired as to progress on the downtown trolley. Mr. Meinhart replied that staff is working with the downtown group to coordinate additional outreach.

Responding to questions by Chairman Gilliland and Commissioner Howard, Ms. O' Connor noted that efforts at Pima Acres have been halted pending the finalization of procedures. Commissioner McCall asked if Pima Acres is out of the queue. Ms. O'Connor responded that once the process is finalized, the project could be placed in the queue. Most of the projects in the queue have been there for a minimum of two years. Several of these are of high public interest. Staff has been working with consultants to move these projects forward, using the old process if that is acceptable to the residents. Ms. O'Connor confirmed that the Commission couldn't take any action at tonight's meeting. She amplified that staff is trying to move all the projects that were in the queue before Mountainview by using the old process.

Vice-Chairman Davis inquired if there are projects that the City is holding up. Ms. O'Connor replied that it is at the choice of the neighborhoods. Staff is trying to move projects forward by using the consultants' services as the neighborhoods have been waiting a long time and the City has no staff dedicated to neighborhood traffic management. A discussion ensued on the traffic management process and staffing.

2. Transportation Commission Retreat

Ms. O'Connor announced that the Transportation Commission Retreat could be scheduled from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 30th. An alternative would be to hold a preliminary retreat on March 30th and wait until a new Commissioner has been appointed in May. The second retreat could be devoted to a Study Session on the Transportation Master Plan.

Chairman Gilliland asked which topics would be covered at the March 30th Retreat. Ms. O'Connor replied that they would discuss the Transportation Commission's By-Laws and Ordinance, if staff from the City Attorney's Office could attend. Ms. O'Connor added that the May retreat would be a good opportunity to review the Transportation Master Plan.

Commissioner Howard expressed his doubts about the Commission's effectiveness in public outreach efforts and opined that the City tends to focus on having meetings, rather than on the result of the meetings. Lack of effective communication is often the root cause of neighborhood dissatisfaction. This might be a useful topic to study.

Chairman Gilliland inquired how specific the Transportation Master Plan is expected to be in solving issues, adding he is thinking of Chaparral to the east of Scottsdale Road. Mr. Meinhart advised that the Transportation Master Plan would be forwarded to City Council with a recommendation included in that document.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Study Session of the Scottsdale Transportation Commission adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V Tronics, Inc.

***NOTE: VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDINGS OF SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCOTTSDALE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING THE MEETING DATE.**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, THE SUMMARIZED MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE NOT VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS. ONLY THE ACTIONS TAKEN AND DISCUSSION APPEARING WITH QUOTATION MARKS ARE VERBATIM.

Officially approved by the Transportation Commission on April 20, 2006